Phasing out of high cost mines of Hindustan Copper Limited

2156. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any directions from Government to Hindustan Copper Limited to phase out its high cost mines; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI MAKHAN LAL FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) In pursuance of directions of the Government to Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) to examine phasing out of its high cost mines to improve financial performance of the company, HCL conducted a detailed examination about optimal production-mix. After examining the matter it was concluded that phasing out of uneconomic units like Khetri and Mosaboni mines should be concurrent with the exploitation of economically viable new deposits so as to sustain the copper production in the country. HCL has also plans for development of Banwas deposit near Khetri mines and Chapri Sidheshwar and Kandadih mines near Mosaboni. A detailed study of Singbhum Copper Belt is also being made with the assistance of a foreign consultant. A number of cost reduction measures are underway on account of which HCL has shown sustained improvement in capacity utilisation and financial results.

Location of the office of Chief Engineer, C.P.W.D.

2157. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Minister's office of Central Public Works Department, Southern Zone II, consisting of three Superintendent Engineers in Andhra Pradesh and one in Karnataka, is located at Madras; and

(b) if so, the justification for its location?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) The Office of the Chief Engineer, Southern Zone-II, Central P.W.D. is functioning at Madras, as it has not been possible to provide necessary supporting staff as yet. The Chief Engineer, Southern Zone-II is, therefore, sharing office accommodation and staff with Chief Engineer, Southern Zone-I, located at Madras.

Equitable and rational pricing policy

2158. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are looking for an equitable and rational pricing policy, to ensure reasonable as well as average profits to the farmers by taking into account the input costs for farming; and

(b) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) It is the declared policy of the Government to ensure remunerative prices to the farmers for major agricultural commodities. The Government decide on support prices for various agricultural commodities talking into account the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP), the views of the State Governments, the Central Ministries and the Planning Commission. The CACP, while recommending support prices, takes into account a number of important factors including the cost of production of the commodity.